

Helen Walker SOCIETY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER - WINTER 2025

Highlighting your donor dollars at work!

Message From Ron

Thank You

In this first update of 2025, I want to take a moment to express my deep gratitude for your unwavering support of the ASA and its mission. Your generosity ensures that we continue to elevate the practice and profession of statistics, foster the next generation of leaders, and advocate for the integrity of data and evidence-based decision-making.

Of course, we recognize that the political landscape is shifting, bringing potential changes for federal statistical agencies and the broader scientific community. As always, ASA remains committed to supporting these agencies, reinforcing the critical role of objective data, and ensuring that statistics continue to serve the public good. Thanks to donors like you, we can remain a steadfast voice in these efforts.

Despite any challenges ahead, there is much to be excited about in 2025. From the inaugural Dionne Price Public Lecture to new initiatives supporting students and early-career professionals, your impact is everywhere. I look forward to keeping you updated and hope to hear your thoughts along the way.

Thank you for being a part of this community and for all you do to advance statistics and data science.

Exciting New Introductions to Make

Meet Emily Fekete

Emily Fekete has joined the American Statistical Association as the new Manager of Volunteer Engagement and Chapter Relations. She is excited to connect with members and support their contributions to the ASA community.

Emily holds a PhD in Geography and previously worked as a professor at Oklahoma State University before transitioning to a role with the American Association of Geographers (AAG). At AAG, she served as the Social Media and Engagement Coordinator before becoming the organization's first Community Manager, where she worked closely with regional divisions and special interest groups.

In her new role at ASA, Emily will oversee the ASA Awards Program, recognizing the outstanding achievements of statisticians throughout their careers. She will also engage with ASA Chapters to ensure their continued success and collaborate with member volunteers who help strengthen the association. She looks forward to meeting members, especially at upcoming ASA events.



Meet Rachel Mills

Rachel Mills is delighted to be the ASA's new Administrative Assistant for Volunteer Engagement and Chapter Relations. With volunteers playing such a vital role in advancing the ASA's mission, she feels honored to have the opportunity to support and recognize the efforts they are so generously contributing.

Rachel has many years of progressive experience in administration, with the last ten years spent at a full-service accounting firm in her hometown of Topeka, KS. There she provided support in the roles of Executive Assistant and Billing Coordinator, where she had many opportunities for collaboration and organizational support. She is looking forward to bringing these skills to the ASA, and to meeting you all! You can reach Rachel at rachel@amstat.org or by phone at (703) 302-1860.



Exciting New Introductions to Make

Meet Moira Skelley

Moira Skelley is ASA's new Section and Interest Group Coordinator. She plays a crucial role in ensuring the success and growth of ASA's various sections and interest groups, fostering a strong sense of community, and promoting engagement among members.

Moira started her career in Association Management where she gained insight into a variety of different associations and sectors. Most recently she worked at the Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates as the Manager of Events & Marketing. In this position she strategically promoted member resources while managing meeting logistics for various events, including an Annual Trade Show and Fall Summit.

These different perspectives and roles provided her with a strong foundation that she can apply to her role at ASA. You can reach Moira via email at moira@amstat.org or phone at (703) 302-1842.



Expand Your Impact and Share Your Expertise

We are continuing to advance our professional development partnership with Instats.org. Any ASA member may create an account and will have the option to verify their ASA membership. ASA members receive a 30% discount on all the live and on-demand seminars.

Over the next few months, we want to develop a cohort of ASA Distinguished Lecturers. This cohort will help us raise the profile of the ASA by providing high quality educational offerings to an international statistics and data science community. Our goal is to offer a range of professional development opportunities that equip individuals with both technical expertise and essential professional skills.

As members of the Helen Walker Society your contributions to the ASA have made a significant impact, we hope you will extend your reach and propose an Instats course. Contact Donna LaLonde at donnal@amstat.org if you would like to learn more.

Invitation to Attend a Townhall With New Board Candidates

Get to know the candidates! Tune in to a virtual town hall event moderated by ASA President Ji-Hyun Lee in advance of the 2025 ASA election. Candidates John Abowd, Fred Hulting, Brian Millen, and Julia Sharp will make statements and take your questions. Register here tinyurl.com/ASATownHall2026



Meet the Candidates

TOWN HALL

March 19, 2025 • 4:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATES 2026



BRIAN MILLEN



FRED HULTING

VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATES 2026-2028



JOHN ABOWD



JULIA SHARP

Mathematics and Statistics Month Coming Up!

Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month is held each year in April. Its goal is to increase public understanding of and appreciation for mathematics and statistics. Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month began in 1986 as Mathematics Awareness Week with a proclamation by President Ronald Reagan.

Again this year we will feature the Predict 5 contest, a competition for students enrolled in high school, college, or graduate school that involves predicting events to take place in April 2025. Predictions must be submitted by March 31 and the winners are announced at the end of MSAM.



PREDICT 5

CONTEST

FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW

- READ**
Take a look at the five questions.
- PREDICT**
Submit your predictions by March 31.
- WIN**
Listen for an announcement in May to see if you won!

WWW2.AMSTAT.ORG/MATHSTATMONTH

ASA AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION
Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics



Our theme this year is ***Math and Stats: AI's Essential Ingredients.***

Thank You for Your Service



Thank you!

The ASA extends its deepest gratitude to Christine (Chris) Franklin for her dedicated service as the ASA K-12 Statistical Ambassador.

Through her passion and leadership, Chris has played a pivotal role in advancing statistics education, inspiring educators, and fostering a love for data and statistics among students. As she retires from this role, we celebrate her remarkable contributions and lasting impact on the field.

Thank you, Chris, for your years of commitment to shaping the future of statistics education!

Photos from top to bottom: Chris meets with teachers in a New York school, Chris in action at a teacher workshop, Chris (3rd from right) with teacher educators in South Africa.



We are excited to welcome Kaycie Maddox as the K-12 Statistics and Data Science Education Outreach Team Director. Having worked closely with Chris, Kaycie is a strong advocate for statistics education and is committed to continuing this important work. We look forward to her leadership in expanding outreach efforts and empowering educators in the classroom.

Join Us for the Inaugural Dionne Price Public Lecture

Claire Bowen, Urban Institute

Government Data of the People, by the People, for the People; Balancing Personal Privacy and the Public Good.

Join us April 22, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in person at the Urban Institute or virtually for the inaugural Dionne Price Public Lecture.

The lecture is free, but seating is limited. Registration opens on March 4.

As a Helen Walker Society Member, you get early access and can register NOW!



[REGISTER TO ATTEND IN PERSON](#)

[REGISTER TO ATTEND VIRTUALLY](#)



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who contributed to bring this lecture to fruition! We know Dionne would have been touched by the outpouring of love and support from so many friends, family, colleagues, and members who were inspired by her. Thanks to the many generous donations, including an estate gift from Valeria Nereo, the \$75,000 goal to endow the lecture has been met!

The Latest in ASA's Science Policy and Advocacy Activities

We continue to closely monitor areas such as federal research funding, civil service policies, and the integrity of federal statistics.

With the rate at which things change, we may not catch every issue or fully assess its impact, so we encourage you to share your insights with us through our anonymous [JotForm survey](#).

Alongside several proactive initiatives, we are also addressing emerging challenges, often in collaboration with partners in the federal research funding and statistics communities. For instance, we highlighted critical issues on LinkedIn, including the availability of federal datasets, access to sensitive data, and the cancellation of key contracts essential to the National Center for Education Statistics' data collection efforts.

We also recognize that members in the federal workforce or in positions dependent on federal funding may be experiencing employment transitions. The ASA is here to help and can offer the following basic assistance:

- Flexible dues payment arrangements or temporary waivers
- Reduced conference registration fees
- Access to career development resources and networking opportunities

If there are other ways in which you think the ASA can help, please share your thoughts using the [JotForm survey](#). Of course, you can always reach out to me directly at ron@amstat.org anytime.

Welcome ASA's New Science Policy Fellow

Michelle Crosby-Nagy began her fellowship on January 6, working with ASA's Director of Science Policy, Steve Pierson, on initiatives like The Nation's Data at Risk and advocating for the statistics and data science community.

She holds a bachelor's in International Service from American University and a master's in International Science & Technology Policy, specializing in Applied Economics, from The George Washington University. A former Christine Mirzayan Fellow, she has served on the National Academy of Sciences' Board on Higher Education and Workforce.



With over a decade of experience in evaluation and capacity building, Michelle has worked with organizations like the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. She spent 10+ years in Central Europe, publishing on the European research area as part of her PhD studies in Economic Sociology. She is also the founder of Crosby Consultants & Associates, LLC specializing in developmental evaluations.

A passionate advocate for scholar activism, Michelle supports academics persecuted by authoritarian regimes. She lives in Calvert County, MD, with her two teenage sons, Sandor and Michael, and enjoys volunteering with her church.

UPCOMING

- State of the ASA Virtual Townhall - 3:00pm ET on **Wednesday, March 5**
- Inaugural Dionne Price Public Lecture - 3:00pm ET on **Tuesday, April 22** at the Urban Institute, Washington DC
- Symposium on Data Science and Statistics (SDSS)- **April 29-May 2**, Salt Lake City, Utah

And now, without further ado...Ron's Dad Jokes!

Apparently, this week it will be constant rane, hele, thundre, litnin and frizzing colde. A really bad spell of weather!

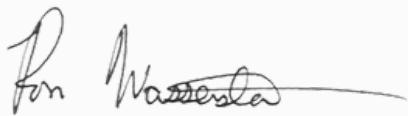
I misplaced Dwayne Johnson's cutting tool for the origami workshop.....
I can't believe I lost the Rock's paper scissors!

At the young age of 5, a bear told me that I am the only person who can prevent forest fires.
Why I was chosen, I'll never know.

Since inflation is so crazy right now, I have decided to sell my dad jokes to help buying bread. Today's special is a pun per nickel.

Thank you again for your incredible support of the ASA. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at anytime. I'm always happy to hear from you.

Sincerely,



Ron Wasserstein
ASA Executive Director